

The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “9/7/75 - Rockefeller House Opening” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

The Tour: Happy and The Bed

Mrs. Rockefeller Fails
To Duck Sleepy Issue

By Isabelle Shelton
Washington Star Staff Writer

Happy Rockefeller finished decorating
the new official residence of the Vice
President yesterday just hours before 250



The Party: Rocky and The Boss

Vice President, Fords
Tour the New Home

By Ymelda Dixon
Special to the Washington Star

Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller
played host and hostess last night, as
only they can, in the first official vice

Rockefellers Toss A Housewarming— In 10 Installments



By LINDA CHARLTON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—The Rockefellers began their serial "housewarming" last night, giving about 250 alphabetically chosen guests a chance to inspect the freshly

(ROCKEFELLER)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A \$35,000 MODERN ART BED WAS THE HIT OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER'S FIRST PARTY AT THE NATION'S NEW OFFICIAL RESIDENCE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT FORD SAID HE THOUGHT THE BED WAS "TREMENDOUS." HENRY KISSINGER RAVED THAT IT WAS "MARVELOUS." KISSINGER'S WIFE, NANCY, SAID LESS ENTHUSIASTICALLY IT WAS "VERY PRETTY." FIRST LADY BETTY FORD WOULDN'T COMMENT ON IT.

HAPPY ROCKEFELLER ADMITTED SHE AND THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD NOT YET "INAUGURATED" THE BED. SHE TOLD A REPORTER, "YOU HAVE TO GIVE US TIME."

"I THINK IT WENT OVER VERY WELL," ROCKEFELLER SAID. "THEY REALIZE THAT IT'S A TRUE WORK OF ART."

THE ROCKEFELLERS THREW THE FIRST OF NINE HOUSEWARMING PARTIES AT THE NEW VICE PRESIDENTIAL MANSION LAST NIGHT. ABOUT 200 MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, CONGRESS, THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES VIEWED THE BED AND OTHER FURNISHINGS AND MUNCHEA A BUFFET DINNER THAT INCLUDED LOBSTER, SHRIMP, ROAST BEEF, TURKEY AND HAM.

THE BED IS THE CREATION OF 20TH CENTURY SURREALIST AMERICAN ARTIST MAX ERNST. THE KING-SIZED BED, WITH ITS MINK COVER, HAS CAGE-LIKE BARS ON BOTH ENDS, TWO CIRCULAR PAINTINGS AND A LARGE MODERN PAINTING ON A SCREEN AT ONE SIDE.

HIDDEN SOMEWHERE UNDER THE POLISHED WOOD BASE IS A COMPLETE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, INCLUDING A CONCEALED TELEPHONE.

UPI 02-08 11:42 AED

036

R

ROCKEFELLER HOUSE

BY MARGARET SCHERF

WASHINGTON (AP) -- IT WILL TAKE A BIT OF LIVING TO MAKE THE HOUSE A HOME, HAPPY ROCKEFELLER SAYS OF THE NATION'S FIRST OFFICIAL VICE PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE.

"I'M CRAZY ABOUT IT. I COULDN'T HELP BUT LIKE IT," THE WIFE OF VICE PRESIDENT NELSON ROCKEFELLER SAID SUNDAY AS SHE PREVIEWED THE 94-YEAR-OLD WHITE FRAME VICTORIAN RESIDENCE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

"IT'S MY BABY -- IT TAKES A BABY A WHILE TO GROW BUT IT'S BEEN BORN," SHE SAID OF THE HOME. "THIS IS JUST ITS ENTRANCE INTO THE WORLD."

THE ROCKEFELLERS FORMALLY OPENED THE NEW RESIDENCE SUNDAY NIGHT WITH THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF PARTIES AT WHICH PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD AND THEIR DAUGHTER, SUSAN, LED THE GUEST LIST.

THE FORDS AND ROCKEFELLERS JOINED ABOUT 250 DIPLOMATS, CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER GUESTS IN A YELLOW AND WHITE STRIPED TENT SET UP ON THE LAWN. THEY ENJOYED COCKTAILS AND DANCED TO SUCH TUNES AS "CABARET" AND "OKLAHOMA."

WHITE, GRAY AND BEIGE ARE THE PREDOMINANT COLORS IN THE SIX-BEDROOM HOUSE AS A SETTING FOR A WIDE RANGING COLLECTION OF ARTWORKS THAT INCLUDES 19TH-CENTURY AMERICAN SEASCAPES, IVORY COAST WOOD CARVINGS, KOREAN CHESTS, AND THE FAMOUS \$35,000 MAX ERNST BED PURCHASED BY ROCKEFELLER.

"HALF THE WORLD LIKES MASTERS AND HALF LIKES MODERNS SO WE'VE GOT A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING FOR EVERYBODY," MRS. ROCKEFELLER TOLD REPORTERS.

PERSONAL ROCKEFELLER TOUCHES ALREADY IN THE HOUSE INCLUDE A GOLDEN EAGLE OVER THE ENTRANCE TO THE DINING ROOM. MRS. ROCKEFELLER SAID, "I TOOK IT OFF NELSON'S WALL IN MAINE."

AND NEARBY IS AN OLD-FASHIONED WOODEN SWING HANGING FROM A HUGE TREE READY FOR USE BY THE TWO YOUNG ROCKEFELLER SONS.

ABOUT \$311,000 HAS BEEN SPENT TO CONVERT THE HOUSE INTO A SUITABLE RESIDENCE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT, A MOVE PROMPTED LARGELY BY SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

THESE INCLUDED CONVERTING ONE OF THE TWO WINE CELLARS INTO A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND INSTALLING SECRET SERVICE ELECTRIC EYES.

BUT MRS. ROCKEFELLER STRESSED THE HOUSE "IS SUPPOSED TO BE A FAMILY HOME. THIS IS REALLY, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, A PRIVATE HOME."

SHE ADDED: "I LIKE IT BEST BECAUSE I CAN PLAY WITH IT AND DO WHAT I WANT WITH IT."

MRS. ROCKEFELLER WAS QUESTIONED MOST FREQUENTLY ABOUT WHAT WAS DESCRIBED ON A POSTED SIGN IN THE MASTER BEDROOM AS "THE MYSTERIOUS AND POETIC 'CAGE-BED.'"



Rockefellers Show Off the Vice-Presidential Residence

By Sarah Booth Conroy

Vice President and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller may not be spending too much time in the newly decorated

And he shifted a rug from one spot to another." The large mahogany dining table is a gift to the house by the Rockefellers.

Earlier, Rockefeller had been over

Mrs. Rockefeller said they saw it in a catalog, "and we thought it would be fun. It isn't as bad as you (the press) told me it was. And after all, Nelson is a collector of *avant-garde* art."

room is a large American eagle, from Rockefeller's house in Maine, one of his late additions to the house. Another eagle with flag and shield, a ship decoration of the turn of the century by John Bellamy, hangs in the

Washington Post - 9/9/75

Coming 'Home'

By Dorothy McCardle

Three offspring of former Vice Presidents came to admire—and envy—the new official residence of the current Vice President and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller last night.

It was the second of nine receptions the Rockefellers are giving at Admiral's House on Observatory Circle to say "thank you" to Congress for making the place available.

Luci Baines Johnson Nugent put her envy into words. She and her husband, Patrick J. Nugent, had flown up from their home in Austin, Tex., "just to see the house." They have three children. Nugent, now bearded, works in cable television.

"How we could have used a house like this when my father was Vice President," said Luci, now 28. "What it cost to keep up a private home then was really something." During the Johnson vice presidency, the family lived in Spring Valley, in a home once owned by Perle Mesta.

With them was Luci's sister, Lynda

See HOUSE, B3, Col. 4



Photo at left, the Associated Press; center and right by Ellsworth Davis—The Washington Post
Iranian Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi with David and Julie Eisenhower, left; Pat and Luci Nugent with Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, center, and Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller with Lynda Robb at the Admiral's House reception last night.

200-Year Music M...

By Richard L. Coe

Exactly four years after the opening of the Kennedy Center, last evening presented a 22-hour retrospective of American "Sing America Sing," which will remain in the Concert Hall through Sept. 21. Folklorist Oscar Brand compiled the material and John R. ... the star.

Lacking any subsidies for productions, the Center increasingly understandably, passes the hat. Prudential Insurance Company picked up the tab for this one and producer billing. It's a welcome public relations gesture and the benefits from a comparatively reasonable price scale, from \$2.95 to ...

As followers of Bicentennial events rapidly are learning, 200 of anything is bound to be a mash. "Sing America Sing" ably glories in mishmash.

Besides the songs there are ettes of William Penn, an brave, soldiers of the Revol

See SING, B2, Col. 1

*To See the House,
A Retrospective Visit*

Washington Post 9/9/75
**Coming
'Home'**

By Dorothy McCardle

Three offspring of former Vice Presidents came to admire—and envy—the new official residence of the current Vice President and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller last night.

It was the second of nine receptions the Rockefellers are giving at Admiral's House on Observatory Circle to say "thank you" to Congress for making the place available.

Luci Baines Johnson Nugent put her envy into words. She and her husband, Patrick J. Nugent, had flown up from their home in Austin, Tex., "just to see the house." They have three children. Nugent, now bearded, works in cable television.

"How we could have used a house like this when my father was Vice President," said Luci, now 28. "What it cost to keep up a private home then was really something." During the Johnson vice presidency, the family lived in Spring Valley, in a home once owned by Perle Mesta.

With them was Luci's sister, Lynda



Photo at left, the Associated Press; center and right by Ellsworth Davis—The Washington Post

Iranian Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi with David and Julie Eisenhower, left; Pat and Luci Nugent with Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, center, and Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller with Lynda Robb at the Admiral's House reception last night.

**200-Year
Music Mi**

By Richard L. Coe

Exactly four years after the of its opening, the Kennedy last evening presented a 22 retrospective of American "Sing America Sing," which w main in the Concert Hall th Sept. 21. Folklorist Oscar Bran piled the material and John R the star.

Lacking any subsidies for p fion, the Center increasingly understandably, passes the hal Prudential Insurance Company p up the tab for this one and g producer billing. It's a welcom lic relations gesture and the benefits from a comparatively sonable price scale, from \$2.95 to

As followers of Bicentennial ectes rapidly are learning, 200 of anything is bound to be a mash. "Sing America Sing" ab ly glories in mishmash.

Besides the songs there are ettes of William Penn, an l brave, soldiers of the Revol

See SING, B2, Col. 1

See HOUSE, B3, Col. 4

L.A. Times - 9/9/75 p. 14-1

Rockefellers Unfurl Welcome Mat

BY MARLENE CIMONS

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Happy Rockefeller walked up the front steps of the newly redecorated vice presidential residence Sunday afternoon carrying a carpet in her arms—a red, white and blue Bicentennial welcome mat with an eagle on it, the final appropriate touch added only hours before President and Mrs. Ford and more than 200 guests began arriving for the first of nine housewarming parties.

"Nelson bought this in South Carolina for the house," she said, spreading it in the front hall. "Now, don't you think that's a welcome mat?"

The Vice President, who credited his wife with the success of the interior decoration ("Happy did it. I'm crazy



Washington Star - 7/8/75 p. C-1

The Tour: Happy and The Bed

Mrs. Rockefeller Fails To Duck Sleepy Issue

By Isabelle Shelton
Washington Star Staff Writer

Happy Rockefeller finished decorating the new official residence of the Vice President yesterday just hours before 250 guests began arriving for the first of nine parties she and her husband will give to show off the renovated mansion.



The Party: Rocky and The Boss

Vice President, Fords Tour the New Home

By Ymelda Dixon
Special to the Washington Star

Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller played host and hostess last night, as only they can, in the first official vice presidential residence, Admiral's House.

President and Mrs. Ford headed the guest list at the first of a series of official housewarmings in the home, on the